

RESOLUTION NO. 13-335

WHEREAS, the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, are apprised that Paula Montgomery Rodney was crowned Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2013 on Saturday, March 30, 2013, in Birmingham, Alabama; and,

WHEREAS, Paula was born and raised and now resides in Huntsville, Alabama. She is married to Andrew Rodney, and they are the proud parents of two sons: Langston and Alijah. Paula has been using a wheelchair since 2005 due to Multiple Sclerosis; and,

WHEREAS, Paula earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics and a minor in Creative Writing from Spellman College in Atlanta, Georgia. She served as a National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) WISE (Women in Science and Engineering) scholar. Paula is a proud alumni of Teach for America and a founding mathematics instructor at KIPP, Houston High School. She has also worked as an Educational Curriculum Specialist at NASA/Marshall Space Flight Center. She also served as the project manager for NASA educational projects such as Field Trip to the Moon with the American Museum of Natural History; Lunar-nautics, Discovery Place Museum; and Human Exploration Project (HEP) with International Technology and Engineering Educators Association (ITEA); and,

WHEREAS, Ms. Wheelchair Alabama, Inc., much like Ms. Wheelchair America, was created as a non-profit organization to recognize the spirit of all people, focusing on an appreciation for life and the spirit of those who use wheelchairs. The abilities, endeavors, and achievements of women who use wheelchairs are recognized and honored in the annual Ms. Wheelchair Alabama Pageant; and,

WHEREAS, the Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2013 Pageant was in no way a traditional beauty contest. Contestants were judged on their accomplishments, self-perception, communication, and projection skills in personal interviews, platform speech presentations, and on-stage interviews; and,

WHEREAS, during her reign as Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2013, Paula will serve as a spokeswoman throughout Alabama where she can foster awareness, acceptance, and understanding of disability among the general public, thus creating a value-added community. She will have the opportunity to travel across the state, visiting advocacy groups, making public appearances, and conducting interviews. As Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2013, Paula will advance to the Ms. Wheelchair America 2014 Pageant scheduled to be held July 15-21, 2013, in Houston, Texas; and,

WHEREAS, Paula enjoys traveling, Broadway productions, and singing. She is very humorous and has considered a career in

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stand-up comedy. Her motto is "Be Passionate in Service to Others;" five words that describe her are Compassionate, Action, Driven, Decisive, and Champion; and her platform is Designing the Future for all Abilities; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council and Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, that we extend our heartiest congratulations to Paula Montgomery Rodney for being crowned Ms. Wheelchair Alabama 2013 and sincere appreciation for bringing honor to our community and the State of Alabama. We wish her much success for all future endeavors.

ADOPTED this the 9th day of May, 2013.

President of the City Council of
the City of Huntsville, Alabama

APPROVED this the 9th day of May, 2013.

Mayor of the City of Huntsville, Alabama